

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

March 21, 1997

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

**IN RE: BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S ENTRY INTO
LONG DISTANCE (INTERLATA) SERVICE IN TENNESSEE
PURSUANT TO SECTION 271 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ACT OF 1996**

DOCKET NO. 97-00309

**ORDER INSTITUTING FORMAL INQUIRY
AND ADOPTING PROCEDURE**

This matter is before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("Authority") on the motion of the Directors for a formal inquiry and the adoption of an appropriate procedure, in order to provide the Authority with the information necessary for it to make an informed judgment with respect to fulfilling its duties pursuant to Section 271 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, and to afford all interested parties with an opportunity to be heard with respect to the significant issues involved.¹

It is, therefore, ORDERED, that:

1. A formal inquiry is hereby instituted for the purpose of determining the compliance by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., with the criteria and

¹ On February 21, 1997, AT&T Communications of the South Central States filed a petition in Docket No. 97-00231 asking the Authority to establish a formal inquiry into BellSouth's entry into long distance interLATA service pursuant to Section 271. Since the Authority convened this Inquiry upon its own motion, AT&T's petition has been rendered moot.

procedures set forth in Section 271 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 for entry into the long distance (interLATA) markets in Tennessee.

2. For the conduct of that formal inquiry, the following procedures are adopted:

(i) All companies filing comments in response to the informal investigation conducted by the Staff, and the Consumer Advocate, will be deemed parties to the formal inquiry. Any other person having an interest, and desiring to become a party, shall file a petition for leave to become a party within ten (10) days from the date of this order.

(ii) At a minimum, at least sixty (60) days prior to the filing by BellSouth of an application with the FCC to provide interLATA service in Tennessee, BellSouth shall notify the TRA, in writing, of its intent to file such application and shall provide such other information as the Directors may order.

(iii) That a status conference shall be held in this matter on April 3, 1997, before Director Melvin J. Malone presiding as Hearing Officer.

(iv) The status conference will be for the purpose of defining the specific factual, legal and policy issues to be considered in this Inquiry, determining the extent and means of obtaining

additional information in aid of the Inquiry and establishing the procedural framework of this Inquiry.


CHAIRMAN


DIRECTOR


DIRECTOR

ATTEST:


EXECUTIVE SECRETARY